

MGA-OMS Transmission Summit 2025 Speaker Biographies

Brett Peters, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Before he became Dean in September 2012, he was a Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University, where he served as Department Head from 2002 through 2011. Dean Peters's primary research area is in facility design and material handling systems in manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution applications. His work has been funded by a variety of government and industry entities. He served as President of the College-Industry Council on Material Handling Education in 2002 and 2003, and Chair of the SME's Member Council in 2020. He was named an Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer by SME in 2001, a 2004 College of Engineering Faculty Fellow at Texas A&M, received the Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni Award from the University of Arkansas in 2005, and was named a Fellow by the Institute of Industrial Engineers in 2010.



Devin Hartman, R Street

Devin Hartman is director of Energy and Environmental Policy at the R Street Institute. He leads a team that brings a pragmatic and analytically sound pro-market perspective to energy and environmental policy. He rejoined R Street in 2020 after serving as the president and CEO of the Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON), the national association of large industrial users of electricity. He represented large consumers on the Members Representatives Committee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation from 2019-2020.



Before ELCON, Devin established R Street's electricity policy program in 2016 based on principles of market competition, consumer choice and good governance. He has previously worked for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and various energy and environmental policy nonprofit organizations.

Devin received a BS in economics and BA in political science and environmental studies from Iowa State University, and holds an MPA and an MS in environmental science from Indiana University. He is an active member and past council member of his local chapter of the U.S. Association for Energy Economics. He lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and retriever puppy.

Casey Cathey, Southwest Power Pool

Casey Cathey currently serves as Vice President, Engineering for Southwest Power Pool. Prior to his current role, Cathey has served in various key roles at SPP including Senior Director of Grid Asset Utilization where he led a group responsible for developing and implementing novel electric industry policies, tools, and procedures aimed at preparing SPP for the grid of the future. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical and electronics engineering from Louisiana State University, an MBA from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in Arkansas.



Donnie Bielak, PJM Interconnection

Donnie Bielak is responsible for the generator interconnection process, including project management, engineering studies, and construction implementation.

Prior to this role, Donnie spent nearly 20 years at PJM in Operations including the positions of Director, Dispatch and Manager, Reliability Engineering.

Donnie is a licensed Professional Engineer and holds a B.S. of electrical engineering and a M.S. of electrical engineering and engineering management all from Drexel University.

Aubrey Johnson, MISO

Aubrey Johnson is vice president of system planning and competitive transmission for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Johnson oversees all aspects of transmission plan development to meet MISO's future system needs. He is responsible for the planning process that yields the annual MISO Transmission Expansion Plan, including reliability and expansion planning, transmission cost allocation, and the competitive transmission developer selection and monitoring process. Johnson also oversees MISO's interregional planning efforts.



Johnson's background spans more than 25 years in the energy industry. Prior to joining MISO, he was vice president of New Mexico Operations for Public Service Company of New Mexico. He has also held leadership positions at GE Energy Services and Southern Company. Johnson earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Tuskegee University.

Johnson is also very active in community activities. He is a graduate of Leadership New Mexico Class of 2014, and an active volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Heartland, Feed My Starving Children, and March of Dimes. He is a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Tricia DeBleeckere, Organization of MISO States (OMS)

Tricia DeBleeckere began working with the Organization of MISO States in May 2024 following her role with MISO as the Director of State Policy and Strategy. Prior to MISO, Tricia worked for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for 15-years as a Commission advisor and analyst on integrated resource, transmission and distribution system planning, facility siting and need, cost recovery, and competitive procurements. Prior to government work, Tricia spent 7-years consulting on FERC and state regulatory filings for natural gas, ethanol, and manufacturing clients. Tricia has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Minnesota and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas Permian Basin.



Ken Collison, ICF International

Ken Collison is a Vice President at ICF International with more than 25 years' experience in power

er system and electricity market analysis. Ken assists clients in power system reliability and economic studies, generation interconnection and integration studies, integrated resource and resiliency planning, and technical and financial due diligence. He also serves as an expert witness on electric transmission and distribution issues. Ken is currently leading ICF's system planning team supporting the Department of Energy. In the Midwest region he has supported market participants in conducting transmission needs assessments and evaluating the potential and actual benefits of transmission infrastructure investments. His recent work in MISO and SPP include production cost and power flow studies to identify transmission infrastructure improvements required to integrate new generation resources, improve system reliability and meet state policy goals; a study to quantify the actual production cost, reliability and economic development benefits of a market participant's historical transmission infrastructure investments; and a production cost study to evaluate the benefits of network upgrades identified through the MISO and SPP generation interconnection processes.



Steve Gaw, Advanced Power Alliance

Steve Gaw, an attorney, former Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, and former Chair of the Missouri Public Service Commission, is the Senior Vice President of Markets and Infrastructure for the Advanced Power Alliance (APA). His primary focus is on RTO policy issues within the Southwest Power Pool region and matters of national interest that impact the advancement of renewable energy.

Steve is a voting member of the Southwest Power Pool Members Committee, MOPC, and Corporate Governance Committee. He serves in several strategic task forces in SPP and is heavily involved in seams issues. During his tenure working with APA advocating for clean energy, SPP increased its renewable capacity by over 30GW, and renewables are now ranked first in the production of energy in the region on an annual basis.



Steve was a founding director and past President of the Organization of MISO States (OMS) and a founding director of the SPP Regional State Committee. Steve was the representative for the renewable generators on the Steering Committee of the Eastern Interconnect Planning Corroborative. He has been a speaker and moderator in regional,

national, and international forums on energy policy dealing with both electricity and natural gas.

Steve is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Truman State University with a B.S. in Physics and has a law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Will Rogers, Converge Strategies

Will Rogers is a national security and foreign policy professional. Will calls on more than 15 years of experience in government and civil society to drive national defense strategies, policies, and initiatives. He specializes in connecting and aligning national security innovators across the federal government, state and local government, academia, and industry.

Will served as the Senior Climate Advisor to the Secretary of the Army, the first individual to ever hold the position where he was focused on the Army's warfighting mission. In this role, he served as the Army's principal advisor on climate change risks, preparedness, and energy resilience. Will advised senior leaders on mechanisms to leverage the Department of the Army's \$165 billion buying power to strengthen the U.S. critical infrastructure that enables the warfighting mission.



In this role, Will also served as counselor to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment), where he worked closely with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Service senior climate advisors, federal agencies, and the White House to ensure strong collaboration and alignment with U.S. energy security goals.

Before joining the Department of the Army, Will served as the Deputy Legislative Director and National Security Advisor to Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii, where he led the Senator's work as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee. During his near decade-long service in the Senate, Will authored several national security bills that he helped Senator Schatz enact into law. This included legislation regulating how the DoD manages installation and operational energy vulnerabilities. Specifically, the laws focused on incorporating current and future threats into installation master planning – including military facility siting, design, and construction to build stronger military communities.

Before serving in government, Will was a fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), where he led the Center's research program on climate change, energy, and national security. He also worked as a researcher at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Will is currently an adjunct professor in the Johns Hopkins University Global Security Studies program, where he lectures on climate change and national security.

Will is also an adjunct senior fellow at CNAS, where he supports the center's climate and energy security research.

Benjamin Stafford, Great Plains Institute (GPI)

Benjamin Stafford joined the Great Plains Institute in 2024 as senior policy manager for the Energy Systems program. Benjamin leads work on utility regulatory innovation and transmission deployment.

Benjamin brings over 20 years of experience in the energy industry to GPI. Most recently, he provided strategy consulting to address regulatory and business model challenges to a clean energy transition. Benjamin's past clients include investor-owned electric and gas utilities, environmental interest groups, and federal and state agencies. Benjamin also has worked extensively in government affairs, advocating for legislative and regulatory policy changes. Benjamin also brings experience in state regulation of public utilities.



Sam Dunaiski, RENEW Wisconsin

Director of RENEW Wisconsin. Sam has been with RENEW since 2018, serving as Executive Director, Distributed Resources Director, and Program Manager. Sam is responsible for carrying out RENEW's mission to lead and accelerate the transformation to Wisconsin's renewable energy future through advocacy, education, and collaboration. Before joining RENEW, he worked as an operational meteorologist, creating weather forecasts for utilities, insurance companies, agriculture groups, and other clients. Sam has served on numerous committees addressing renewable energy, sustainability, and climate change.



Commissioner Sarah Freeman, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

Sarah Freeman was appointed by Governor Mike Pence as Commissioner on September 19, 2016, and was most recently reappointed by Governor Eric Holcomb on December 20, 2021. Commissioner Freeman is a member of the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Universal Service Administrative Company, chairs the Midcontinent Independent System Operator Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council. Freeman is also President of the Mid-American Regulatory Conference, Vice Chair of the Financial Research Institute Advisory Council at the University of Missouri, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Freeman served as a senior staff attorney with the nonpartisan Indiana Legislative Services Agency, where she drafted utility and transportation legislation and served as counsel to numerous legislative committees.

A native Hoosier, Commissioner Freeman earned her undergraduate degrees in psychology, French, and political science from Indiana University – Bloomington and her juris doctor degree from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

Commissioner Freeman lives in Indianapolis with her husband, Ian Stewart. Their daughter, Nia, attends Indiana University-Bloomington. They are members of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.



Kris Zadlo, Grid United

With more than 30 years of electric power industry experience, Kris Zadlo is one of the co-founders of Grid United responsible for identifying new development opportunities while overseeing its technical initiatives.

Previously, Kris was a Senior Vice President at Invenergy, responsible for commercial analytics, government and regulatory affairs, strategy, transmission analysis and the establishment of the company's energy storage program. Kris also served as Vice President of Transmission for Calpine Corporation and held various management positions during his ten years at Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago. During his career, he has been responsible for interconnecting over 15,000 MW of utility scale energy projects. Kris has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and a master's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University. In addition, Kris is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.



Will Koebel, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Will Koebel serves as vice chair of the Transmission Planning Working Group within OMS and is the Senior Energy Markets Engineer at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. His work focuses on regulatory oversight of transmission planning, resource planning, and regional market design.

Prior to joining the PSCW, Will was pursuing his Masters of Electrical Engineering researching power electronic modularization with micro grid applications. His work in the energy industry began at Eaton Corporation as a manufacturing and design engineer for medium voltage transformers and low voltage switchgear. Will holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Masters in Electrical Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Dr. Dominic Gross, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dominic Gross is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA. He received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Kassel, Germany, in 2014. His work aims to bridge the gap between power system control and analysis and advanced control of converter-interfaced generation, storage, and transmission such as high-voltage DC transmission. He received an NSF CAREER award in 2022. He leads control research in the DOE-sponsored UNIFI consortium that is developing grid-forming power electronic technologies to ensure reliability, security, and affordability.



Jay Caspary, Grid Strategies

Jay Caspary is a Principal at TransGrid Advisors, LLC where he helps clients and partners address opportunities associated with transmission planning reforms with a focus on advanced transmission technologies. Jay is currently serving as a consultant and advisor to GridAstra. From September 2022 through May 2024, Jay was a Sr Consultant for the U.S. DOE Grid Deployment Office and was instrumental in standing up new programs like the Transmission Facilitation Program. Prior to DOE, Jay was Vice President at Grid Strategies LLC for 2 years where he provided analysis and strategic guidance on transmission grid planning and operations to support a clean energy portfolio. Jay has over 40 years of experience in transmission planning, engineering, management, tariffs, transmission services, and retail marketing. Prior to joining Grid Strategies LLC, Jay oversaw Research, Development & Tariff Services for the Southwest Power Pool. In his career at SPP, Jay served as the head of Transmission Development and led robust transmission expansion in the footprint. In 2012-2013, Jay served as Senior Policy Advisor for the U. S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) with a focus on grid modernization. Prior to SPP, he served in several staff and managerial roles at Illinois Power. Over his career, Jay has worked closely with regional organizations, national labs and affected parties to evaluate and promote the integration of renewables with effective transmission solutions, deployment of research pilots and case studies to identify the merits of new technologies or approaches to utility operations. Jay has served in leadership roles for industry-utility collaboratives such as the ESIG, EPRI, PSERC and GRAPES, as well as several industry advisory boards.



Drew Siebenaler, Electric Power Engineers

Drew Siebenaler is a Senior Manager, Transmission Planning at Electric Power Engineers. Drew graduated from the University of Minnesota – Duluth with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical and computer engineering with a focus on power systems. Immediately after graduation, Drew began his career as a transmission planning engineer at the Midcontinent Area Power Pool (MAPP) where he focused on transmission planning and NERC compliance as well as development of the FERC Order 1000 interregional planning processes. In 2015, Drew transitioned from his role at MAPP to Xcel Energy, progressing from a Staff Engineer to Director of Transmission Planning, where he oversaw the transmission planning efforts covering eight states, two RTOs and two interconnections. In addition, Drew served as Co-Executive Director of the CapX2020 partnership (now Grid North Partners) from 2019-2021. In January 2025, Drew transitioned into his current role where he is involved in providing support for regulatory, policy and strategy issues related to transmission planning and development.



Brad Pope, Organization of MISO States (OMS)

Brad Pope joined the Organization of MISO States in June of 2022 following six and a half years with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. At the IURC, Brad served as an Administrative Law Judge and, in an earlier role, as an Assistant General Counsel focused on regional and federal energy issues. Brad earned a law degree from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law with a Certificate in Energy & Environmental Law and a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Purdue University.

